

*An ACT to Enable their Majesties to Dispense
with the Statute of 25 Car. 2. touching the
Sacramental Test, and to Employ any of their
Protestant Subjects in the Common Defence of
Themselves, their Government, and these King-
doms.*

W Hereas the Statute made in the 25th. year of
the Reign of King Charles the 2^d. intituled,
*An Act for preventing Dangers which may hap-
pen from Popish Recusants*, was designed and
made to prevent *Papists* from being put into Places and Of-
fices of Trust, by the Means or Power of the late King James,
then Duke of York, and a professed or known *Papist*; but
by reason of some things therein, is found to exclude divers
Protestants who are able and willing to serve their present
Majesties faithfully: And whereas there is now no danger
to be feared of the present King and Queen's Employing or
Intrusting of *Papists*, but special and great Cause in this
Juncture of Affairs, that their Majesties should have the in-
tire and unanimous Assistance of all their *Protestant* Subjects,
for the common defence of Themselves, their Government
and these Kingdoms: To the end therefore that their Maje-
sties may not be deprived of the Service of any who are
Faithfull unto Them, and well affected to Their Government;
especially when there is so great occasion, by reason both of se-
cret Conspiracies of Persons ill affected at home, and of open
Invasion threatened by so potent and active Enemies abroad:

Be it Enacted by the King and Queens Majesty, the Lords
Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this present Par-
liament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That
it shall and may be lawfull to and for their present Majesties,
during their Reign, to grant Commissions, or otherwise to
Authorize any Person or Persons, whom they shall think fit,
not being *Popish Recusants*, to hold and Execute any Office or
Employment under them, without receiving the Sacrament,
or having any Certificate thereof, as by the said Act is re-
quired; and that all Persons so Commissionated or authori-
zed, to hold or execute any Office or Employment under their
Majesties, shall and may hold and Exercise the same, according
to their several respective Commissions, although they shall not
Receive the Sacrament, or have any Certificate thereof, as by
the said Act is required, without being subject to any Disa-
bility, Forfeiture or Penalty for so doing, any thing in the said
Act or any other Act to the contrary thereof in any wise not-
withstanding.

Provided notwithstanding, and be it Enacted by the Autho-
rity aforesaid, That if any Person being in truth a *Popish Recu-
sant*, though he be not then convicted or so reputed, shall accept
of any Commission, Office or Place under their said Majesties,
and shall Exercise the same contrary to the said Act, and shall
afterwards be thereof convicted, every such Person being there-
of convicted, shall be subject to all the Disabilities, Forfeitures,
and Penalties expressed in the said Act, any thing in this Act to
the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.